

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2005

Chairman Christopher Dollar called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Approval for Minutes from February 2005 Meeting

- The February 16, 2005 Meeting Minutes were adopted with two minor changes.

Conservationist of the Year, Farmer and Employee of the Year Nominations

- Robert Beyer, Associate Director, mentioned to the members that we have not received the nominations.
- Mr. Beyer added that the Commission members are encouraged to make nominations to the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The deadline for submitting nominations has been extended to April 15, 2005.

2005 Legislative Update

- Presentation by Mark Hoffman, Associate Director of Administration, Wildlife and Heritage Service
- Mark Hoffman handed out the Profile – WHS Tracking Legislation – March 16, 2005 [Attachment A] and outlined each bill listed.
 - 1) HB 128 Entitled Natural Resources – Anne Arundel County – Deer Hunting on Private Lands - Sundays
 - 2) HB 258 Entitled Natural Resources – Howard County – Steel Jaw Leghold Trap Prohibition Ho. Co. 6-06
 - 3) HB 339 Criminal Law- Prohibition Against Wild Animals as Pets-The goal is to make sure we have the ability to manage to the State's natural resources and to ensure that legal permittees are not affected by this prohibition against wild animals as pets. Secondly, it clearly outlines the functions of local animal control agencies on how they will enforce these provisions and manage these species. The Judiciary Committee has been assigned this bill. The pet trade members are opposed to this bill.
 - 4) HB 371 Entitled Natural Resources – Black Bear – Prohibition (FAILED)
 - 5) HB 372 Entitled Natural Resources – Leghold Traps Prohibition (FAILED)
 - 6) HB 380 Entitled Natural Resources – Wild Waterfowl Hunting – Tidal Potomac River
 - 7) HB 438 Entitled Natural Resources – Withdrawn Environmental Matters – Montgomery County – Deer Management Permits – Hunting Devices MC 517-05 – The Department agreed to develop regulations for Montgomery County on managing the deer population with more liberalized tools.
 - (a) Deer Management Permits/Crop Damage Permits are one of the same.
 - (b) WHS will annually conduct a population/impact study.
 - 8) HB 608 Entitled Natural Resources – Nonresident Junior Hunting License – Absent amendment, this bill will have a slight negative fiscal impact on WHS.
 - 9) HB 972 – Endangered and Threatened Species – Incidental Taking – Puritan Tiger Beetle. The Department supports this bill as a necessary tool to allow consideration of solutions to some complicated landowner problems on the cliff faces of the Bay.
 - 10) HB 1086 Entitled Natural Resources – Hunting – Closure of State Lands – The Department supports this bill.
 - 11) HB 1173 Entitled Natural Resources – Powers, Limitations, and Procedures – Wildlife – The Department opposes this bill.
 - 12) HB 1388 Entitled Natural Resources – Wildlife – Hunting Restrictions
 - 13) SB 93 Entitled Natural Resources –Hunting – Penalties --Withdrawn
 - 14) SB 296 Criminal Law – Prohibition Against Wild Animals as Pets (Crossfiled with HB339 above)
 - 15) SB 432 Election Law – Boater Voter
 - 16) SB 943 Entitled Natural Resources – Wildlife Hunting Restrictions (Dorchester co. Sunday hunting)
- The House of Environmental Matters Committee has subcommittees such as the Natural Resources Subcommittee. A list of committee members can be found at <http://mlis.state.md.us>.
 - 1) The Natural Resources Subcommittee has no affiliation with the Department of Natural Resources.
 - 2) Bills are referred to a subcommittee according to the subject and the area of expertise of its members.
 - (a) The subcommittee has the responsibility to study the bills assigned.
 - (b) After the subcommittee has reviewed the bills, the members of the subcommittee will report their comments and/or amendments with a vote to the Standing Committee (in the House it's usually the Environmental Matters Committee).

Wildlife Advisory Commission Concerns

- Members felt that the Department dismissed or disregarded their recommendations referencing the Captive Raised Deer protocols.
- The members made requests for an outline of what was inserted and removed, and/or considered in the new protocols on captive raised deer in Maryland.
- The members are concerned that they have had little opportunity to interact with Departmental leadership and do not understand what mechanisms are in place to engage the DNR leadership.
- The members requested Secretary Franks and Assistant Secretary Slattery attend the upcoming April 20th meeting to address the following:
 - 1) Outline and discuss the roles of the Commission
 - 2) Describe the purpose of an advisory committee
 - 3) Provide information regarding the protocols that the WAC members should follow to communicate recommendations to the Secretary
 - 4) Provide input on how to improve communications between WAC, the Departmental leadership and general public.

State Forest and Park Service Update

- No Report

Natural Resource Police Update

- Presentation by Sergeant Kelly Johnson
- Sergeant Johnson provided summary of NRP activity from February 9, 2005 through March 15, 2005 [Attachment B].
- Chairman Dollar inquired as to whether the NRP has statistical data on waterfowl citations from 2004-2005 in comparison with 2003-2004. Sergeant Johnson will gather the information and bring it to the Commission's attention.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update

- Presentation by Kurt Fuchs
- Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) was pleased that the Statewide Leghold Trap Prohibition bill and the Black Bears Establishment of Population in Each County was withdrawn.
- MFB is working with DNR on making changes to the Deer Management Permits regulations for Montgomery County.
- MFB is also working on the Sunday Hunting Bill for Anne Arundel County.
- Mr. Kurt Fuchs will check into how MFB is supporting the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

2005 Working Agenda

- Additions to the April 20, 2005 Agenda
 - 1) Addressing the Concerns of the Wildlife Advisory Commission Members presentation by Secretary Franks and Assistant Secretary Slattery
 - 2) Presentation on the Fish and Wildlife Health Program by Dr. Cindy Driscoll
 - 3) Urban Wildlife Committee recommendations, Chairman Dollar will contact Mr. Tim Lambert (former Chairman) concerning this presentation.
- Commissioner Lowell Adams handed out the Wildlife Advisory Commission (Presentation Guidelines) and (Operating Guidelines Adopted by the Secretary of Natural Resources) [Attachment C]. The members should review these documents for discussion and editing before the April meeting.
- Chairman Dollar suggested adding an e-mail link to the WAC section of the website for the general public to submit comments to the WAC members. Chairman Dollar also recommended that e-mails go through the Wildlife and Heritage Service, Assistant to the Director's office, and then forwarded to the Chair. The e-mail link was added as an additional topic on the April 20, 2005 agenda.

Old Business

- Waterfowl Outfitting and Guiding §08.03.13
 - 1) The requirement that a person licensed as a master hunting guide or waterfowl outfitter sign the statement documenting the prior experience of a person applying for a waterfowl outfitter's license has been removed, as this would have unintentionally prevented persons who have been operating in a capacity comparable to a waterfowl hunting guide, but not for a master hunting guide or waterfowl outfitter, from being licensed.

Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

Minutes, March 16, 2005 Page 3 of 3

- 2) Language has been changed to allow a person to meet the qualifications for a waterfowl outfitter license by having two years of experience performing the duties of waterfowl hunting guide, whether or not this experience was working for a master hunting guide or a waterfowl outfitter.
 - 3) Language has been changed in §C to clarify that criteria is solely the conviction for violations of the listed items.
 - 4) The length of time a person has to appeal the denial of a waterfowl outfitter license application has been changed from 15 to 21 days.
 - 5) Language related to a limit on the number of Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese that may be harvested by a waterfowl hunting guide has been eliminated to make the regulation consistent with bag limits for all individuals hunting AP Canada geese in Maryland.
 - 6) Language has been changed to allow a waterfowl outfitter to maintain a list of waterfowl hunting guides in their employ in any manner they see fit, to make the requirement more convenient.
 - 7) The language in proposed text §§C-I is changed to simplify the record keeping requirements for waterfowl outfitters and waterfowl hunting guides by allowing the field records of the waterfowl hunting guides to be the only record that needs to be made and retained.
- Commissioner Lamp made a call to Mr. Charles Garner (WAC Historian); unfortunately, Mr. Garner has been very ill. Commissioner Lamp will hopefully have an update of Mr. Garner's condition by the next meeting.

New Business

- Maryland Bowhunter Society invited the Commissioners to the MBS Annual Banquet on March 19, 2005.
- **Mute Swans Update** [Draft Preliminary Findings From Exclosure-based SAV Data Attachment D] (Commissioners will discuss the statistical data with Larry Hindman in July and August.) This is for future discussion.
- Group of sportsmen from the region are working in the Kent County area on a new Maryland Wood Duck Initiative (an effort to increase and improve habitat for Wood Ducks).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Attendance

Members:	L. Adams, R. Brown, C. Dollar, G. Fratz, W. Freeland, L. Julio, J. Lamp, R. Pascal, J. Scarborough
Guests:	K. Fuchs
Staff:	B. Beyer, K. Blizzard, M. Hoffman, K. Johnson, B. King, T. Spencer
Absent:	C. Garner